

Application No. 09/047,676
Amendment dated March 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2005

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 11-22 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 23-30 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 11, 14, 16, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,067 to Suemoto et al ("Suemoto").

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suemoto.

Claims 24, 26, 28 and 30 have been cancelled.

Claim Amendments

Claims 11, 16, 23, 25, 27, and 29 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 11, 14, 16, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Suemoto patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Amended claims 11 and 16 are directed to still cameras including a connector for connecting to an external printer so that the camera can print captured still images. For example claim 11, as amended, recites:

“a connector for connecting the camera to the printer and for outputting the still image data to the printer;

a detector for detecting whether a connection is established with the printer

via said connector; and

a controller for transitioning the camera into a state in order to output still image data through said connector to the printer when said detector detects that said connection is established via said connector.”

In contrast, Suemoto is directed to a video camera and provides no teaching with respect to taking or printing still images. Indeed, it is not at all clear how one would print a video image. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Suemoto fails to disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest all elements of claims 11 and 16. Accordingly, Suemoto is distinguished by amended claims 11 and 16, as well as by claims 12-15 and 17-22 which depend therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11, 14, 16, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Suemoto patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Suemoto patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 12, 13, and 15 depend from claim 11, and claims 17, 18, 20, and 22 depend from claim 16 which claims distinguish over Suemoto as provided hereinabove. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Suemoto is distinguished by claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22 for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suemoto patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Withdrawn Claims

Earlier in the prosecution of the present application, a restriction requirement was imposed in which election was required between cameras provided with a communicator and cameras capable of mode selection. Applicants elected to continue prosecution of claims directed to cameras having communicators. Claims 23-30, which have been withdrawn by the Examiner, are, like elected claims 11-22, directed to cameras that communicate with an external printer. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the subject claims are not directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Accordingly reconsideration is requested.

As amended, claims 23, 25, 27, and 29 are method claims analogous to apparatus claim 11 and 16 discussed above. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claims 23, 25, 27, and 29 distinguish over the cited art for at least the same reasons as provided above regarding claims 11 and 16.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

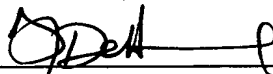
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

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If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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